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The Last 'Double-Dipper'

In government, as in most sports, timing can be crucial. As for the former, just ask Adm. Stansfield Turner, ~~director of the CIA.~~ Mr. Turner increased his affluence remarkably the other day by beating a pension ceiling deadline. That action gave him a 41 percent pay increase, raising his total income to $81,000, more than the $75,000 Vice President Mondale earns or the $66,000 paid members of the Cabinet.

It happened this way: Admiral Turner decided on Dec. 31 to retire from the Navy as a four-star admiral, thus becoming eligible for a $23,390 annual pension in addition to his CIA salary of $57,500. ~~Had~~ he waited until Jan. 12 to retire, he would have had to forfeit his Navy pension while serving with the CIA, since Congress passed a new law last year (which took effect Jan. 11) setting a ceiling of $47,500 on the combined federal pay plus federal pension that military retirees can receive. Admiral Turner thus becomes the last of the big "double-dippers."

As we said, timing in these matters can be crucial, a point amply proven in the admiral's case.

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